

Natural News

Weekly Staff Newsletter
November 30, 2001

Mouse Memo # 1



© The Field Museum, Z93637_2

As most of you know, the Museum has been invaded by unwanted pests; during the last year, house mice have become a very serious problem threatening irreplaceable exhibits and collections. A concerted effort will be made during the coming months to eliminate (or at least greatly reduce) the problem—and this will require the efforts and cooperation of everyone. More mouse memos will follow soon—but for now, we need your help with the following:

1. Everyone in the Museum must keep all food in mouse-proof containers overnight. This means tough plastic containers (Tupperware, etc.), metal, or inside refrigerators. This means all food—candy, cookies, catsup and sugar packages, your lunch—everything! NO EXCEPTIONS! If *you* can eat it, so can the mice.
2. When possible, please dispose of uneaten food, food wrappers, etc., in a covered trash bin, and place soda cans and bottles (after rinsing) in one of the blue recycling bins in your area.
3. Please report all current mouse problems (actual sightings or droppings or other signs, or recent captures) to pests@fieldmuseum.org. This will allow us to determine the extent of the

Continued on next page

FIELD NOTES

November 30-December 7

Staff/Volunteer Events

**Pledge Deadline: The Field Museum—
Helping the Earth and its People,
Friday, Dec. 7, by 4:30**

Yoga

- Wednesday, 5:00, Lecture Hall II

Aerobics Class

- Tuesday, 5 p.m., Ground Floor
- Thursday, 5 p.m. Ground Floor

Green Sheet Meeting

- Wednesday, 3 p.m. FP&O Conference Room.

Public/Campus Events



China: The Panda Adventure

Su Lin, The Field's famous giant panda is the subject of this new IMAX movie at Navy Pier.

**Field Associates' Annual Holiday
Party** featuring *Cleopatra of Egypt:
From History to Myth*.

• Thursday, December 6
\$15 for non-Field Associates Members
Call 7137 to RSVP

*The Natural News is published by the
Human Resources Department.*

*Submissions can be emailed to Mark
Schmeltzer (mschmeltzer@fmnh.org)
Or delivered to him via interoffice mail to
the Office of Institutional Advancement.*

*The deadline for the next issue is
WEDNESDAY, December 5.*

Mouse Memo, continued

problem. If in doubt, report it, and don't worry about duplication; we need to hear from anyone with current information.

4. If you or Housekeeping or anyone else has placed traps (the aluminum box traps) in your area: please return them to the Mammals Division, so that they can be cleaned and adjusted.

In a few weeks, we'll contact people about a general trapping program to remove the mice. Also, we will have an announcement soon about new containers for food trash. In the meantime, please try to eliminate the source of food; this is the only certain way to eliminate the pest problem.

Many thanks!

**Holly Lundberg and Larry Heaney,
Pest Subcommittee Co-Chairs**

Reminder—

There is a BEARS game on Sunday, December 2, 2001. The game will begin at 12:00 p.m. There will be NO monthly or daily hag tags accepted in any Soldier Field Parking Lot. For staff that will be working on Sunday, please be aware that you must pay \$25 to park in the East and North Parking Lots. The Adler Planetarium Lot will cost \$15. We encourage all staff that are working on Sunday to find alternative travel arrangements for that day.

**Maria Burns
Public Services**

All Field Museum Associates are invited to visit The Field Museum Stores on Tuesday, December 4th or Saturday, December 8th to receive a 25% associate discount on all purchases made on these dates.

Enjoy your holiday season!

**Christine Feine,
Museum Stores**

Please join us for the next Temporary Exhibitions Scoop Meeting on Thursday, December 20, 2:30 - 4 p.m., Lecture Hall 1.

Temporary Exhibitions to be presented:

Tiniest Giants: Discovering Dinosaur Eggs, Project Administrator: David Foster

Celebration of Souls: Day of the Dead in Oaxaca, Project Administrator: Todd Tubutis

Come learn about these exciting exhibitions. Everyone is welcome!

**Kelly Heiple,
Exhibitions**

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Friday, Dec. 14 (payday)
11:30-1:30 in Lecture Hall II

plants, shell crafts - beaded jewelry - stoles
salsa - Golden books - clothes - gift baskets
nature photographs & children's nature books
fossil jewelry & casts - cookies - floral arts
perfume, body wash & free facials - planters
- turtles, caramels, toffee - wreaths -
crystal tall ships, bowls, Afr.-Amer. figurines,
nylon or leather wallets, sweatshirts

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SELL HOMEMADE ITEMS, please contact **Elaine Zeiger**, ext. 7627, zeiger@fmnh.org

Academic Affairs

Community Kimono Comes to "Living Together"

The Center for Cultural Understanding and Change and the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society have united in displaying a quilt in the "Living Together" Exhibit. The exhibit, titled "Community Kimono: Made in Chicago", was constructed by several Japanese artists. It is to be representative of Japanese American resettlement in Chicago after World War II and patriotism, as well as the time spent in Japanese Internment camps by many of these artists. Through this exhibit, and others, CCUC and "Living Together" are able to reach out to Chicago communities and give them the opportunity to come talk about their diverse histories.

Meganne Lube,
CCUC

Research Reports

Bob Martin, VP Academic Affairs, just returned from a one-week research trip to the University of Zürich. In addition to meeting with six M.Sc. students and two Ph.D. students to discuss progress with their theses, Bob attended meetings of private foundations that fund ongoing research projects. He will continue to serve as President of one of them (the A.H. Schultz Foundation) until his successor as Director of the Anthropological Institute is in place. Bob also engaged in discussions on research results to be presented in four publications in progress, three of which grow out of the conservation project involving Barbary macaques, supported by a grant from the Swiss National Science Foundation.

Curator John Bolt (Geology) recently returned from a trip to Montreal, where he was working with a colleague at Redpath Museum, McGill University, on a project dealing with the origin and evolution of the three orders of living amphibians, the Lissamphibia. John has also recently begun a research project with a colleague from India on some small reptiles from the Late Permian (ca. 250 million years before present). This unique material was first reported nearly 30 years ago, but, likely due to the difficulties in preparation, it has not been studied since. The Field Museum's excellent preparation capabilities now make it possible to greatly extend the original work. Where physical preparation is not possible, the specimens will likely be CT scanned.

The large dromaeosaur dinosaur fossil being studied by Assistant Curator Peter Makovicky arrived from New York, and is currently undergoing preparation by Lori Barber. This animal is probably a close relative of Velociraptor, but somewhat larger.

MacArthur Curator John Flynn reports from Chile that he gave a presentation to the Geological Society of Chile, November 15, 2001, on "The significance of fossil mammal discoveries in the Andes."

Curator Bennet Bronson and Adjunct Curator Chuimei Ho left on Saturday for Thailand to attend a conference in Bangkok on trade in early Thai ceramics, and to discuss possible future research projects with Thai colleagues. One possibility under active discussion is forming a Thai-American team to conduct archaeological surveys aimed at establishing a new UNESCO-recognized World Heritage site at Nan in northern Thailand. Ben also hopes to be able to spend two days doing more work on ancient glass objects that they excavated in southern Thailand in 1989-90.

Yusheng Liu, Collections Manager of Paleobotany, has been working on two notable paleobotanical acquisitions. The first is an outstanding fossil algae specimen from the 2.1 billion-year-old Negaunee Iron-Formation, from near Marquette, northern Michigan. The donor, Prof. Tsu-Ming Han, described this specimen in *Science* in 1992, placing the origin of organelle-bearing eukaryotic cells prior to 2.1 billion years ago. Second, the Dept. of Geology is set to receive more than 20,000 fossil plant specimens from the well-known paleobotanist Prof. Aureal T. Cross of Michigan State University. These specimens were collected almost from every state of the U.S. over several decades, and will be an important addition to the paleobotanical collections.

Wendy Taylor, Collections Manager, Fossil Invertebrates, has been very active recently in outreach activities. These included an educational display at the Elgin Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show in September and another at the Springfield, Illinois Gem, Mineral and Fossil Show in October; she also taught a Naturalist Certificate Course in Illinois Geology in October and another, the Rock and Mineral Workshop, in November at the Morton Arboretum, and served as an instructor for the Project Exploration Junior Paleontologist Program in New Castle, Wyoming in August.

John W. McCarter visited the archaeological excavations that are being conducted by Anne Underhill and Shandong University at the Late Neolithic/Bronze Age site of Liangchengzhen. McCarter also visited the campus of Shandong University, and signed cooperative agreement between the University and The Field Museum. He made stops in Beijing and Yunnan Province. Details to follow.

On Saturday, November 17, Dr. Gina Barnes, Full Professor at the University of Durham, England, presented the first Boone Lecture. The lecture, "A Tale of Two Histories: Early States in Japan," compared two divergent historical accounts of the political and social currents running through Japan in the 3rd-5th centuries A.D., which was a turning point on the road to state formation. Dr. Barnes, author of the best-selling textbook "The Rise of Civilization in East Asia: The Archaeology of China, Korea and Japan," explored the differences between the Chinese dynastic records and Japanese court chronicles for this era. The lecture was supported through the bequest from Commander Gilbert E. Boone and Katherine Phelps Boone. Members and friends of the Boone family were in attendance for the lecture and associated events.

Supported by a large NSF collections improvement grant to Zoology Chair Rüdiger Bieler, the Invertebrates Division has completed a massive computerization and rehousing project of its entire pulmonate land snail collection. Four years of painstaking retrospective data capture, re-identification, re-housing, and re-labeling have now placed the world's best land snail collection in stable conditions and made it available on the Web. In addition to other land snail groups (Field Museum's Hubricht collection) that were previously computerized, data for 140,000 lots (= series) of pulmonates are accessible at <http://fm1.fieldmuseum.org/collections/search.cgi?dest=inverts>.

Many past and present members of the Division contributed, but kudos is due to Janeen ("Fingers") Jones, who keyed the majority of the 100K entries in this latest computerization phase.

Philip Janney, Manager of the Isotope Geochemistry Laboratory, reports that the installation of the Micromass Isoprobe mass spectrometer that is the centerpiece of the Isotope Geochemistry Laboratory was completed on October 9, and the lab (including the clean sample preparation laboratory) is now fully operational. Apart from correcting some design flaws in the air handling system, the lab is finished and operational.

Science & Research Media Hits

Submitted by Greg Borzo, Media Manager, Academic Affairs

Meteor shower

On Friday, Nov. 16, The Field Museum's meteor exhibit was the setting for a FOX-TV interview with Douglas Duncan, a University of Chicago professor, looking ahead to the Leonid meteor shower Saturday night. That set the stage for....

...Indiana rocks

During the Leonid meteor shower, an Indiana family believed their house was pelted with meteorites. The press got wind of it and the story made a big media splash, nationwide, with appearances by the Yuran family on several TV news programs, major papers and even *The Today Show*. Most reports referred to Meenakshi Wadhwa's upcoming analysis of the rocks. When, Meenakshi examined the specimens on Nov. 21, she told the assembled media multitude that they were common Earth rocks. But she took the opportunity to say that The Field Museum is the place to check out such finds.

40 Under 40

On Nov. 19, Crain's Chicago Business profiled Peter Makovicky as one of the 40 most successful, up-and-coming Chicagoans less than 40 years old. It was a great article along with a nice picture.

And looking ahead: Bob Martin and "Beasts within Us"

On Dec. 10, a major documentary on the Discovery Channel will feature Bob Martin. The show is part of "Walking with Prehistoric Beasts," a follow-up to the extremely successful "Walking with Dinosaurs." "Walking with Prehistoric Beasts" will first air Dec. 9, from 6-9 p.m. Next up is "Triumph of the Beasts" on Dec. 10, from 8-9 p.m. The segment that features Bob, "Beasts within Us," will run twice on Dec. 10: from 9-10 pm and from 12 midnight to 1 a.m. (All times are for Chicago; check your local listings to confirm.)

A letter from the director of the Chicago American-Japanese Historical Society to Antonio Curet of the Anthropology department.

Dear Antonio:

I want to thank you and the Field Museum staff so much for your kind invitation to first of the Boone Lecture series. It was fun to meet friends and relatives of the Boones as well as supporters of your programs.

For several years now, Northeastern Illinois University and Durham have formed a partnership with teachers traveling between our two institutions. It was nice to talk to Gina Barnes even though she was not aware of the joint program.

Also, seeing the Japanese American women's quilt up in the *Living Together* exhibit was a treat. I think museum visitors will enjoy viewing it.

Best wishes,
Alice Murata

BOOKWMN Speaks

By Paula Ramos

Paula Ramos has been one busy Bookwmn. But, she tells me, she plans to be even busier this coming year. As a result, she has decided to reduce the frequency of her column from weekly to monthly. "The reasons are simple," Paula said. "This year I want to get at least one of my books published." She also has her sights set on buying a boat and getting it in the water by March. "Any boat that I can afford is going to take a great deal of work!" she said. So, look for Bookwmn Speaks in this space the last Friday of each month (except, of course, this one.)

—Ed.

Baker's Corner

By Paul Baker

For a while now, I've been trying to invent a savory version of my homemade pumpkin pie. Savory being the culinary opposite of sweet—salty or piquant. Spinach pie is a savory pie. I put down some basic ingredients that I wanted to include, like onion, spinach (maybe), cheese (perhaps) and eggs, and started looking for some help.

Firstly, you all probably had some pumpkin pie recently. This late November holiday celebrates many things to many people but to me it commemorates the appearance of pumpkins at Plymouth Rock. Early Pilgrim recipes took the gift pumpkins, stuffed them with apples, cranberries and nuts and baked them whole. (It reminds me of the Argentinean beef stew-in-a-pumpkin I once tried to master.) But you have to remember to buy extra pumpkins in October because they will not be there once you start prodding turkeys and counting place-settings in November.

The Pilgrims learned other uses for pumpkins and they became a sustaining food during the early, difficult years in the New World. Being from the land of meat pies and imported spices, it was inevitable that New World settlers would develop early versions of pumpkin pie as we know it, after the colonies began trading with other countries. (The Brooklyn Botanic Gardens say that pumpkins were not limited to the kitchen but also cut into strips, dried and woven into mats.)

And, other countries around the world have been using pumpkins in savory dishes for hundreds of years. Cruising the Web, I found a recipe for sangkhaya fakthong (custard pumpkin) which is popular in Thailand. My mouth watered over the curried pumpkin soup recipe from the West Indies, and tons of bean and pumpkin recipes from Central and South America are available. Shrimp and pumpkin figure prominently in the "maccheroni al torchio" recipe from the Barilla Pasta page and the Brooklyn Botanic Garden also says that

some middle-eastern cultures use the pumpkin as a starchy side-dish, much like the role of baked Idaho spuds here. Of course, unlike its brief seasonal appearance in the U.S., pumpkins are found in European market stalls year-round.

Highly nutritious, the pumpkin has been a poor step-child to other squash-type vegetables. According to the U.S. Government (and they should know), pumpkins contain over 52,000 International Units of vitamin A per cup and are a good source of minerals and fiber. *Prevention* magazine says that one cup of pureed pumpkin "packs more beta carotene than an equal amount of cantaloupe or cooked, dried apricots, more iron than a 3.5 ounce serving of beef and a substantial amount of vitamin C." They store well for up to five months if kept cool and dry (wash them first, please) and I love the color.

One article, by Rebecca Wood, made my blood run cold. She informs us that "neither a purchased pumpkin pie nor a can of pumpkin pie filling is pumpkin." These products are from a tan, long-necked relative called "cushaw" squash which has pumpkin-like texture and flavor. It is not usually found sold as a whole vegetable but it is legal to label canned or pied cushaw as "pumpkin". Hmmmm. No wonder my pies taste so differently.

I found lots o' pumpkin pie recipes at <http://www.allrecipes.com/directory/1281.asp> but there was only one that I would consider savory. It is called "Deep Dish Potato and Pumpkin Pie submitted by: Jen." Reading the ingredients didn't serve to inspire me much but it probably is a hearty and filling meal. The "Savory Pumpkin Soup submitted by: Sara" sounds zesty but, of course, it's not what I'm looking for.

I don't give up easily and am open to suggestions. Meanwhile, anyone for pumpkin raviolis?

PUERTO RICAN ARTS ALLIANCE

911 North Fairfield, Chicago, IL 60622 * Tel: 773.342.8865

November 26, 2001

Mr. John McCarter
President & CEO
The Field Museum
1400 South Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60605

Dear Mr. McCarter:

Thank you for providing the Puerto Rican Arts Alliance the opportunity to use The Field Museum's James Simpson Auditorium for its third Puerto Rican Cuatro Festival held November 9, 2001. It was truly a wonderful experience for PRAA to partner once again with such a prestigious arts institution and receive meaningful organizational support. My deepest sincere appreciation for Encarnacion Teruel and Bill Ryan for their noticeable contribution toward making the Cuatro event a success.

As a Latino arts organization, PRAA applauds your efforts in sharing The Field Museum's with our community.

Thanks you for your support and we hope to once again work with The Field Museum next year!

Sincerely,

Carlos R. Hernandez
Board President

CC: Encarnacion M. Teruel, Manager, Performing Arts, Education Department
The Field Museum
Edward Maldonado, PRAA Executive Director